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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS
WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 11 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you that Iraq is aware of the obligations of the host country and Member States under the Headquarters Agreement, which include the obligation to facilitate the entry of authorities of Member States into the United States of America in order to carry out their official duties relating to the work of the Organization.

However, we have observed, since 1993, in the course of our relations with the host country and on those occasions when we have had to apply for entry visas for Iraqi officials, that entry visas have not been granted in accordance with a single criterion and, furthermore, the procedure for granting such visas has been characterized by a failure to consider the nature of such missions, both when they had been scheduled well in advance and when they were of an urgent nature that required the presence of such officials as soon as possible.

You are aware that the responsibilities arising from the current nature of relations between Iraq and the United Nations require permanent and direct official contacts and negotiations between Iraqi officials and officials of the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies, in particular the Security Council and the Special Commission, which are responsible for ensuring that these obligations are fulfilled. Accordingly, the presence of Iraqi officials and experts responsible for establishing such contacts under any circumstances require that the host country facilitate such measures in keeping with its obligations, especially since the dates of some of these missions cannot be established in advance.

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* A/49/150.

We have noted with displeasure that, recently, restrictions have been imposed that bear no relation to the substance of the measures, namely, the granting of entry visas to Iraqi officials, and that the nature of these missions has not been taken into account, which has led, as in the present instance, to the delayed arrival in New York of a significant number of members of the delegation accompanying the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, who were involved in the work of the Special Commission, and who came to participate in the debates relating to the review scheduled to take place on 14 September 1994.

I hope that you will take prompt action to resolve these problems with the host country, in accordance with the provisions relating to the equal treatment of all Member States.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 142 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative